

CREWKERNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended 31st December, 1966.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

A.M. McCALL  
V.R.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

D.V. Hague, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

A.C.N. Gully, M.A.P.H.I., F.R.S.H.

Clerk to Medical Officer

Miss Y. Michael, M.A.

Health Visitor

Miss D. Collingham, H.V., S.R.N.,  
S.C.M.

District Nurse

Miss G. Johnston, S.R.N.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

and

HOUSING COMMITTEE

The whole Council

Health Department,  
16, Church Street,  
Crewkerne.  
Somerset.

Telephone No. Crewkerne 3419



To the Chairman and Councillors of the Crewkerne Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1966, the Twentieth I have had the pleasure of presenting to the Council.

There was fairly widespread influenza in the town in February, otherwise there was little infectious disease.

The measures considered necessary to improve the Country's financial position proved severe and the level of unemployment rose towards the end of the year

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

A.M. McCALL

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population The Registrar General gives the estimated mid year population for 1966 as 4,550, identical with last year's figure. This gives a population density of 3.5 per acre. The product of a penny rate is now £670 and the rateable value is £172,136.

Birth Rate The corrected Birth Rate for 1966 was 15.94 which is below the national figure of 17.7 but almost identical with the Crewkerne rate for 1965. There were three illegitimate births giving a rate of 5% of total live births.

Death Rate The corrected Death Rate for the year was 10.79 slightly higher than last year but below the national figure of 11.7 for 1966. Our way of life often dictates our way of death. In highly industrialised countries like Britain the pattern of causes of death is similar. The commonest causes of death are diseases of the heart and blood vessels, followed by cancer and then accidents. Up to the age of forty-five accidents, mainly car accidents, are the most widespread cause of death. Appendix A, Table 3 gives details of deaths in Crewkerne during 1966. Heart disease caused 11 deaths, followed by deaths due to vascular lesions of the nervous system (strokes) 9. Thirteen died from cancer, two of these were due to cancer of the lung. About two-thirds of the patients seen with lung cancer die in the first year after attending hospital. The five year survival rate in the United Kingdom is probably less than 5% yet large numbers of people persist in heavy cigarette smoking knowing its association with lung cancer and heart disease. At present the chances of a striking improvement in early diagnosis and treatment are not encouraging; prevention would therefore seem to be the sensible precaution. The change in smoking habits that has taken place amongst doctors has reduced their mortality from lung cancer at the same time that it has been rising steeply in the general public. Heavy cigarette smokers often suggest that if they are going to get lung cancer they will be just as likely to get it if they stop as if they carry on but statistics show that this is not the case. The incidence of lung cancer in heavy cigarette smokers who give up the habit is significantly less than in those who persist.

In June, 1965, after a number of previous unsuccessful attempts, the Council agreed that no smoking should take place in the Council Chamber during Committees. However, the deprivation proved too great and in February, 1966, this decision was rescinded by 6 - 3. Later it was decided to install a ventaxia in the Council Chamber to lessen the air pollution.

Maternal Mortality There were no maternal deaths in 1966.

Stillbirths There was one stillbirth, giving a rate of 16.6 per thousand live births.

Infant Mortality There was one infant death during 1966 due to gross immaturity.

Social Conditions 1966 was a difficult year for the Country generally. Our economy was not financially sound and measures had to be taken to put matters right. The wages freeze which was announced in July was one of the measures designed to do this. No increase in wages was permitted, but the cost of living continued to rise and unemployment increased. The lower income group were particularly hard hit.



## SECTION B

### General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The general health services are provided and administered by the local health authority, the County Council, and they continued unchanged during 1966.

The clinics were so well supported that it became necessary to introduce an additional session per month to deal with the growing number of immunisations.

Figures for clinic attendances are shown in Appendix B, Table 1 and details of the school medical inspections I carried out are shown in Appendix B, Table 2.

A considerable amount of reconstruction work was carried out at the Clinic and the Dental Department was moved down from the top floor to that area previously occupied by the caretakers' flat. In addition the garden at the rear of the clinic was very well laid out to the architect's design. It now presents a pleasing appearance with the minimum of work.



## SECTION C

### Prevention and Control over Infectious Diseases and Other Diseases

Details of notifications are shown in Appendix C, Table 1. Apart from a few cases of measles and one case of pulmonary tuberculosis which were notified, there was a severe epidemic of influenza in the town and the Grammar School was particularly badly hit in February; about half the school were ill at some time. In October there was a fair amount of mumps, particularly among the school population. In June there was an outbreak of enteritis at the Infants' School; eight children and three adults were affected. Specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory but these proved sterile and the cause was not identified but was probably a virus infection.

A case of diphtheria occurred in the surrounding rural district early in the year and there were eight close contacts in Crewkerne. These were all investigated and kept under observations but none developed the infection.

Routine immunisation of children against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus continued to be given at the Clinic and by the general practitioners. Trivax vaccine was used. Oral poliomyelitis vaccine was given at the same time or as a separate course. Vaccination against smallpox was also done at the Clinic and in doctors' surgeries. Details of these procedures are shown in Appendix C, Table 2.

I carried out my B.C.G. vaccination programme against tuberculosis in the spring. Children born in 1952 and 1953 were those selected.

In an endeavour to prevent dental decay the Council reaffirmed their previous decision to bring up the existing fluoride content of the water to an optimum value. This decision was forwarded to the Wessex Water Board and the County Council but the Board, who now control the town supply, were not in agreement. The result is that children who would have been benefitting from this procedure are denied due to the fact that the Council no longer control their own water undertaking.

Requests for cervical smear examination were received and referred to the County Medical Officer. The County Council made application to the Ministry to make provision for the taking of samples. This received the Minister's approval and arrangements were in hand at the end of the year to implement this service.

## SECTION D

### Environmental Health Services

#### A. Sanitary Circumstances

Climatic Conditions 1966 was again a wet and disappointing summer with a rainfall above average.

Water Supply The water supply of the town was satisfactory in both quality and quantity throughout the year. Three samples of the raw water were examined and found to be bacteriologically satisfactory and twelve samples of the chlorinated water were similarly reported on. Every house in Crewkerne now receives a main water supply with the exception of two; one still relies on a well and the other has a spring supply.

Sewage Disposal Early in the year the Public Health Inspector informed the Committee that the time was appropriate to extend the Eastern Outfall works to cope with the increased load which would result when the Park Estate of 600 houses was developed. Consulting engineers were instructed and as a preliminary suggested that a survey of all trade effluent being received into the sewer should be investigated. This matter was in the hands of private consultants at the end of the year. Effluent samples taken for examination in 1966 were satisfactory. The foul water sewer from Lang Road to South Street was completed at a cost of £20,000.

Public Cleansing and Refuse Collection The Council gave a weekly refuse collection using our own vehicle and labour and in special cases a bi-weekly collection is available. Refuse is burnt and then tipped under control. In the early part of the year the access road became very wet and made it difficult for the vehicle to get in. Eventually, to prevent heavy tyre wear, Mole Cage equipment was purchased and certain repairs were carried out to the road to facilitate the drainage of surface water. In addition, it became necessary to increase the size of the tip and the stream was piped prior to the extension.

Residents often fail to realise that certain types of refuse can prove dangerous to the tip operator burning the refuse. On one occasion he fortunately discovered two dozen 12 bore cartridges which could easily have caused him severe injury if burnt.

The Council purchased a scavenging machine which had a number of teething troubles mainly due to the camber of certain roads. However, these have been dealt with and although the cost is slightly above that estimated, the result has been more frequent road sweeping.

Public Conveniences The Council continued to maintain their public conveniences in a satisfactory condition. The problem in these unattended buildings is to prevent unnecessary damage.

Rodent Control The Council share a rodent operator with the Borough of Chard and Urban District of Ilminster. He is employed in Crewkerne for one week each month but can deal with emergencies in any part of his area by special request. This arrangement works satisfactorily.

Swimming Baths There are three school swimming baths in the town and all were maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Nuisances The Public Health Inspector dealt with all complaints of nuisances promptly and no statutory action proved necessary.

Mortuary For some years now the Urban District Council have made use of the mortuary facilities provided by Yeovil Hospital and paid an annual contribution of sixteen guineas. As the Hospital was being rebuilt it became necessary to re-negotiate with the Hospital and finally agreement was reached for the joint use by Yeovil Borough and Rural Districts, Wincanton Rural and Crewkerne Urban Districts of the new mortuary. The Crewkerne U.D.C. agreed to make a single contribution of £129 instead of an annual payment.



## B. Factories Act

Details of inspections carried out can be found in Appendix D, Table 2.

## C. Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act

There are 86 premises registered under this Act. It has not been possible to do a routine survey of all of them yet but when the premises are visited for other purposes the opportunity is taken to consider the facilities provided under this Act and to request the owners to remedy any defects.

## D. Housing

Details of the housing situation are shown in Appendix D, Table 3.

It will be seen that the Council completed 34 houses during the year. These were, in fact, houses built on the Park Estate by the Crewkerne Development Co. and purchased on completion by the Council. In addition, 26 houses were completed by private enterprise and another 31 were in the course of construction. The extension to Chubbs Lawn, where the special housing for old people is situated was completed.

There was talk of some London "overspill" population being accommodated but nothing had been decided at the end of the year.

## E. Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk There are no registered distributors or registered dairy premises in the town. Samples were taken by the County Health Department who also deal with the follow-up work in connection with milk production.

Ice Cream There were fifteen premises registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream. Ten samples were submitted for examination, of which nine were satisfactory.

Meat There is no licensed slaughter house in the town and no reports were received of unsatisfactory meat on sale.

Food Premises Routine work was carried out throughout the year and co-operation of retailers was satisfactory in all but one case where legal action is under consideration.

There are 54 premises subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 52 comply with Regulation 16 and all comply with Regulation 19.

APPENDIX A TABLE 1

Registrar General's estimate of population mid 1966	...	...	4,550
No. of inhabited houses at the end of 1966 according to the Rate Book			1,711
Rateable Value	...	...	£172,136
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£670
Area	...	...	1,291 acres

APPENDIX A TABLE 2

BIRTH RATE	15.94	Comparability Factor		1.21
		M	F	
Live Births	Total	31	29	
	Legitimate	31	26	
	Illegitimate	-	3	
Stillbirths	Total	1	-	
	Legitimate	-	-	
	Illegitimate	1	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	-	1	
	Legitimate	-	1	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	Total	-	1	
	Legitimate	-	1	
	Illegitimate	-	-	
Deaths of Infants under 1 week	Total	-	1	
	Legitimate	-	1	
	Illegitimate	-	-	

APPENDIX A    TABLE 3

BIRTH RATE		10.79	Comparability Factor 0.91											
	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	Under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
Cancer of Stomach	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
Cancer of Lung	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Cancer of Other Sites	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Coronary Diseases, Angina	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	
Other Heart Diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	
Other Circulatory Disease	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	
Pneumonia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Bronchitis	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
All other Accidents	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Suicide	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	14	5	
	F	27	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	7	13	

APPENDIX B    TABLE 1

Child Welfare Clinic

1.	No. of children on register who attended during 1966		
	Born in 1966	...	72
	Born in 1965	...	80
	Born in 1961-64	...	131
	Total attenders in 1966	...	283
2.	No. of children entered in register for 1966 who had		
	never attended a County Clinic before	...	75
	Under 1 at time of first attendance	...	20
	Over 1    "    "    "    "	...	95
3.	No. of attendance made by children in 1966 who at		
	time of attendance were		
	Under 1	...	877
	Aged 1 - 2	...	197
	Aged 2 - 5	...	128
	Total attendances	...	1202
	Total sessions during year	...	36
	Average number of attendances per session		34
4.	No. of children on register who		
	Saw doctor at least once for consultation during year		251
	Only saw doctor for immunisation during year		29
	Did not see doctor at all during year	...	3
	Total attenders in 1966	...	283
5.	Total number of medical consultations during year		269
6.	No. of doctor's sessions during 1966	...	36
7.	Average number of consultations per session	...	11

APPENDIX B    TABLE 2

<u>Name of School</u>	<u>No. on Roll</u>	<u>No. in- spected</u>	<u>Date of medical inspection</u>	<u>Children having milk</u>	<u>Children having dinner</u>	<u>Diphtheria/ Tetanus Immunis- ation</u>	<u>Date of last dental inspection</u>
Crewkerne Grammar	197	22	27.1.66	60.91%	89.34%	-	27.9.63
Crewkerne Infants'	182	104	13/15/17 6.66	87.91%	85.71%	60	18.3.66
Crewkerne Junior	207	88	22/23/24 6.66	85.20%	92.27%	42	14.7.65
Crewkerne Secondary Modern	373	92	14/16/18 3.66	35.38%	83.11%		29.11.65



APPENDIX C    TABLE 1

Measles	...	30
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		1

Analysis of Cases Notified

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65+	Age Unknown
Measles		2	2	3	5	17			1				

Tuberculosis

Age Group	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
- 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 25								
25 - 35								
35 - 45								
45 - 55	1							
55 - 65								
65+								
	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# APPENDIX C    TABLE 2

## Diphtheria Immunisation

No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	23	50	10	2	1	-	86

No. of children who received a reinforcing injection in the year ended 31st December, 1966

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	-	11	35	6	73	42	167

## Whooping Cough Immunisation

No. of children who completed a course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	23	50	10	2	1	-	86

No. of children who received a reinforcing injection in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	-	11	35	6	4	-	56

## Tetanus Immunisation

No. of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	23	50	10	2	1	-	86

No. of children who received a reinforcing injection in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	-	11	35	6	73	42	167

## Poliomyelitis Vaccination

No. of children who received a course of primary vaccination during the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	13	38	4	1	2	-	58

No. of children who received a reinforcing dose during the year ended 31st December, 1966,

Children born in the year	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under age 16	Total
	-	-	-	-	63	3	66

## Smallpox Vaccination

No. of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated) in the year ended 31st December, 1966.

Age Groups:	0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	1	2-4	5-15	Totals	
	mts.	mts.	mts.	mts.	year	years	years	P	R
	P	P	P	P	PR	P R	P R	P	R
	-	-	3	5	38	10 2	- 4	56	6

APPENDIX D      TABLE 1

Water Supplies

Bacteriological Examinations

	No. of samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Water	3	3	-
Treated after going into supply	10	10	-

APPENDIX D      TABLE 2

Factories Acts 1957-1959

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 enforced by Local Authority.	5	6		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority,	33	30		
(iii) Other premises where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)				
Total	38	36		
Cases in which defects were found	...	...		2
Cases in which defects found were remedied	...	...		2

Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August List required by Section 10 64

APPENDIX D      TABLE 3

Housing

Action taken during year.

1.	No. of houses included in Clearance Areas for which Orders are still to be made	...	...	-
2.	No. of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act 1957	...	...	-
3.	No. of houses closed or demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas)	...	...	-
4.	No. of houses demolished or closed (a) under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual unfits)	...	...	5
	(b) for other purposes (road improvements etc.)	...	...	-
5.	No. of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	...	...	-
6.	No. of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 (capable of repair)	...	...	-
7.	No. of houses made fit during year	...	...	10
8.	No. of unfit houses occupied under licence	...	...	-
9.	Houses in multiple occupation (Housing Act, 1961)	...	...	-
10.	Reconditioning of condemned houses - Exclusion from Clearance/Demolition Orders (Housing Act, 1961)	...	...	-
	Action taken	...	...	-
11.	Substitution of Closing Order for Demolition Order (Housing Act, 1961)	Action taken ....	...	-
12.	Housing Act, 1964, Any action taken during year	...	...	-
13.	Rent Acts			
	1. Certificate of Disrepair			
	(a) No. of applications received	...	...	-
	(b) Certificates issued	...	...	-
	2. Certificates of Fair Rent	...	...	-
	Certificates issued (if known)	...	...	-
	Houses erected during year	Houses in course of erection	Gained from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	Lost from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance purposes	For Slum Clearance purposes		
	For other Clearance purposes	For other Clearance purposes		
Local				
Authority	-	34	-	20
Private				
Enterprise	-	26	-	31
				3
No. of Post War houses erected from 1st April, 1945, to 31st December, 1966.				
By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise		
350		287		



Housing Programme (as requested by Ministry of Housing & Local Government  
Circular No. 21/65)

Programme for period ending 1968

(a) No. of temporary housing units occupied	(i) prefabs	-
	(ii) huts, etc.	-
(b) No. of houses found overcrowded		-

Houses Required

(i) To replace houses scheduled for demolition	...	2
(ii) To abate overcrowding	...	-
(iii) For other purposes	...	-
(iv) Applications for Council houses at end of year	...	
(a) Urgent bona fide cases	...	17
(b) Applications for Old Peoples' dwelling	...	30
(c) Others	...	89
		<u>136</u>

(v) Total number of Council houses sold during the year -

	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.65	Gained from conversions and erected during 1966	Total (a) + (b)	Less houses demolished, closed etc. during year	No. of permanent dwellings in District as at 31.12.66
	(a)	(b)			L.A. P.E.
L.A.	426	34	460		460
P.E.	1227	29	1256	5	1251
Total	1653	63	1716		

OLD PEOPLES DWELLINGS

Total Number Erected to 31.12.66		Number in course of Erection	
With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid	With County Council Aid	Without County Council Aid
30	18	-	-

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A. Discretionary

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority during year			
(1)		(2)	
Received		Approved	
Applications	No. of Dwellings	Applications	No. of Dwellings
-	-	-	-

<u>Note</u>	No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupier during year	...	-
	Average cost per dwelling approved during year	..	-
	Amount of grant payable by Local Authority	...	-

B. Standard

1. No. of applications	(a) Received	...	25
	(b) Approved	...	25
2. No. of houses where standard amenities have been provided			13

<u>Note</u>	No. of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers during year	...	13
-------------	--	-----	----